



# GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JULY 2018 VOLUME 9 ISSUE 7

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**Art Break**  
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## Washtenaw losing 800 units of affordable housing as complexes return to market rate – more to come?



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

The already short supply of affordable housing, especially near bus lines, is poised to become considerably tighter in the next four years. The owners of 837 units are positioned to stop offering subsidized housing, and another with 120 units will soon be eligible to do the same.

The properties that are in the process of returning to market rate rentals are: Liberty Grand Apartments, Woodchase Club Apartments, Huron Ridge Apartments, Cross Street Village, Lexington Club of Ann Arbor (also known as Lynden Parke) and Arbor Pointe Apartments. Huron Heights has started the process and awaits approval.

All these units were subsidized by the federal government when they were

### GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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developed through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. In return for 10 years' worth of hefty tax credits for the financing agents, the rents on these units were tied to a percentage of the Area Median Income (AMI). The properties could not discriminate against housing choice voucher holders, and tenants could only be evicted if the owner had good cause.

Many affordable housing properties were built in Washtenaw County in the late 1990s, financed by the LIHTC program. Under the terms of the program, those units designated for affordable housing must adhere to those conditions for a minimum of 15 years. There is also an additional 15-year extended use period during which some reporting requirements are relaxed but the rental requirements stay nearly intact.

Unfortunately, a quirk in the program (called the qualified contract process) allows LIHTC property owners to opt out of the program after the first 15 years.

Because of our county's hot real estate market, the owners of many of these LIHTC-financed projects are now choosing to use this process to opt out. When owners decide to use the qualified contract process, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) has one year to find a property buyer who will maintain the rent caps for the remainder of the extended use period. If a qualified buyer is not found within one year, the property owner is released from all restrictions, except for a three-year protection period for existing tenants.

Ann Arbor City Council should be urged to use these opportunities to fill the existing need and the impending need that will likely coincide with the completion of the new buildings. Removing the state prohibition on inclusive zoning (to require some affordable units in every new complex) would also help enormously.

Woodchase started their three-year protection period in October of 2016 and would therefore be eligible to return to market rate rents for their 143 units in October of 2019. Arbor Pointe entered their three-year protection period in November of 2016 so tenants in their 215 units will lose protections in November of 2019. Cross Street Village, a senior living community in Ypsilanti, started their three-year protection period in August of 2017. Huron Ridge Apartments (143 units) and Lexington Club/Lynden Parke (94 units) began their three-year protection periods this year.

Huron Heights (120 units) just applied to opt out so they are at least four years from returning to market rate rentals. Due to these LIHTC properties opting out of the program, it appears likely that Washtenaw County will lose 837 units of affordable housing by April of 2021 and more after that through 2023. Critically, this means we are also losing properties that are required to accept housing choice voucher holders. This troubling development will make it considerably more difficult for voucher holders to find housing in Washtenaw County or force voucher holders into poorer neighborhoods – further from transit, jobs and other opportunities.

It is fortunate that the City of Ann Arbor has the option now to build a substantial number of affordable units in downtown on the old Y lot and to require some affordable units in the new high rise slated for the Library Lot. Moreover, \$5 million from the sale of the Library Lot will go into the Ann Arbor Housing Fund and can be used for the construction of new housing.

Ann Arbor City Council should be urged to use these opportunities to fill the existing need and the impending need that will likely coincide with the completion of the new buildings. Removing the state prohibition on inclusive zoning (to require some affordable units in every new complex) would also help enormously.

Tenants are notified within 14 days of the start of the one-year search for a qualified purchaser. The building owner or representative must be available to answer tenant questions and concerns. During the protection period, existing tenants cannot be evicted without cause and their rate increases are subject to the prevailing Average Monthly Income (AMI) percentages. New tenants receive no protection. After the three-year protection period expires, the owners can raise rents to market rate for all tenants and evict them without cause.

Liberty Grand Apartments, now operating as The Park at Sagebrush Circle, entered their three-year protection period in May of 2014, so tenants in their 143 units could see drastic rate increases at any time. One-bedroom apartments there are now listed with rents beginning at \$1,369.

## A community mosaic – wisdom held in common



by Rev Dr.  
Martha Brunell  
Groundcover  
Contributor

on a north-south running street in Chicago are brilliant monarch butterflies caught in flight against red brick. Underneath your feet at the former

Salisbury and

Blair bus stop in the Hyde Park neighborhood of north Saint Louis is a magic carpet. It commemorates a community tragedy and the stubbornness of hope nurtured by its neighbors. In all of these, hundreds of small pieces of glass in too many hues to count are set side by side.

I am not a quilter but I have long been drawn to patchwork quilts, especially crazy quilts with their irregular designs or old-time quilts with patches created from worn-out aprons or shirts, a dress now too small or remnants of various sewing projects. Such quilts are like a library, an assemblage of fabric telling story after story.

I make a habit of stopping to enjoy mosaics. There is the beautiful parking lot wall of the former beehive bookstore in Delaware, Ohio. A reading mermaid sparkles with multiple colors. The fragments reflect from a pool of water in south Saint Louis' Francis Park. Tucked in the middle of a neighborhood block

of hospice care is discovered across different pathways of training that head toward healing in end-of-life days.

**“The concrete ways by which [Groundcover’s] impact can be measured are only a portion of the story happening one month after another... regularly becoming a whole that exceeds the sum of who we are and what we pour into it.”**

For me there is wisdom in these four – potluck meal, quilt, mosaic and multi-disciplinary team – for the wider Groundcover News community of writers, vendors, advertisers, readers and other supporters throughout Washtenaw County. The differences among us are considerable and not always easy to navigate. And yet each month since the summer of 2010, the paper has come out as a micro-economic project, a justice and truth-telling commitment around homelessness and related issues, and a reliable and resilient creative effort. The concrete ways by which the paper's impact can be measured are only a portion of the story happening one month after another. I want to pause to honor this as the paper enters another year of publication this summer, regularly becoming a whole that exceeds the sum of who we are and what we pour into it. The wisdom of potluck meals, quilts, mosaics and multi-disciplinary teams is the wisdom of Groundcover News, too.

gathered or given. It may take time to figure out how the pieces will arrange themselves. There are often options to consider and choices to be made.

### Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
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Bethlehem Church  
is home of the  
Groundcover office

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8:30 a.m. Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary  
Summer Sunday school, 10:15  
Fellowship Hour at 9:30

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1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 x 6.25
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## Primary election looms large in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti

by The CivCity Initiative (CivCity.org)

On Tuesday, August 7, voters across the country will head to the polls for a primary election. Most will be picking candidates from the major parties for the November 6 general election.

But in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, the August primary may be more important than the November general election! Why? Because in many local races,

Democrats are the only ones running for office. So, the Aug. 7 Democratic primary might be the only time when voters have a choice of candidates.

**We'll be voting for mayor and city council.** Candidates for Washtenaw County commissioner, state legislature and governor will also be on the ballot. And voters will decide whether to OK a tax renewal for The Ride, our public transit system.

On Election Day, polls are open from 7

## The deep roots of #MeToo – a history of the Suffragette movement

by Will Shakespeare

Groundcover Vendor #258

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the World. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

— Margaret Mead

Historians describe the Women's Suffrage Movement as the most significant achievement by women during the Progressive Era, that period between the 1890s and 1920s. While abolitionists, activists and other supporters played significant roles, the Seneca Falls (New York) Convention of 1848 was viewed as "the meeting that launched the suffrage movement."

As it happened, Lucretia Mott invited Elizabeth Cady Stanton to have tea with four friends. The five women in upstate New York had an intense conversation about women's issues and agreed to convene the first Woman's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls. Over 200 women were in attendance. Forty men, including abolitionist Fredrick Douglass, participated in the Convention.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan

B. Anthony are generally credited as the leaders of the suffrage movement for some 21 years. They co-wrote several volumes of the book, "History of Woman Suffrage," a monumental history of the women's suffrage movement published in six volumes between 1881-1922.

Anthony and Stanton complemented each other. Anthony excelled at organizing and Stanton had an aptitude for intellectual matters and writing. Stanton wrote speeches that Anthony delivered. Because of Anthony's community mobilization and speaking skills, she became the iconic personality of the movement for women's legal, social and political rights. Historians give equal recognition to Stanton.

But even well-known women reformers in the suffrage movement could not get politicians to listen to them because they had not secured the right to vote. For several decades, they lobbied Congress to introduce a constitutional amendment. Anthony was rebuked when she tried to speak at the New York State Temperance Convention.

The men told her that "ladies have been invited to listen and learn, and not to speak."

After Seneca Falls, suffragist leaders such as Lucy Stone and Paulina Wright Davis led a series of Women's Rights Conventions in Worcester, Mass., in the 1850s and 1860s. Most suffrage leaders, black and white, were aligned with the abolitionist movement of the 19th century.

By 1869, Anthony and Stanton led the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA), while the American Woman Suffragist Association (AWSA) was led by Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Blackwell and Julia Ward Howe. AWSA supported the 15th Amendment as was written. NWSA opposed the 15th Amendment of 1870, ending voting discrimination based on race, and the 14th amendment of 1868, providing equal protection under the law. The reason for NWSA's opposition was that Anthony, Stanton and some suffragists preferred "universal suffrage" – the right to vote of all adult citizens.

The ideological difference was intense. Abolitionist Fredrick Douglass, who called himself a "women's rights man" and was the only black man at the Seneca Fall Convention, was angry

see SUFFRAGE, page 5

a.m. to 8 p.m. At your polling location, you'll be asked to show your photo ID – a driver's license, military ID or other government-issued ID. If you don't bring one, you can still vote but you'll be asked to sign a form stating that you didn't bring your photo ID.

You can find more info about local candidates and ballot proposals at AnnArborVotes.org or Vote411.org.

### Milestones in the Women's Rights Movement

#### First Wave

**1848:** The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 was viewed as "the meeting that launched the suffrage movement."

#### Second Wave

**1963:** The publication of "The Feminine Mystique," by Betty Freidan, ushered in women's rights, equal rights and gender consciousness of the 1960s and 1970s.

#### Third Wave

**Early 1990s:** Professor Anita Hill's sexual misconduct accusations of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas sparked widely publicized hearings by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

#### Fourth Wave

**2012:** A resurgence of interest in feminist thinking, especially the issues of technology, justice for women, and opposition to sexual harassment and violence towards women, leading to the present #MeToo movement.

### Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klonz © 2018



## A history of the Suffragette movement

continued from page 4

because "Anthony and Stanton insisted on property ownership and a literacy requirement for black males who would get the right to vote ahead of females."

Eventually, AWSA and NWSA merged in 1890 as NAWSA – the National American Woman Suffrage Association – with Anthony as the leader.

#### Black Women Pioneers

Many historians and feminist writers have said that people who told the story of the suffrage movement overlooked the contributions of African-American women pioneers who helped to secure women's right to vote. Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary Church Terrell, Francis Ellen Watkins Harper, Harriet Tubman, Mary M. Bethune, Ella Baker and several notable black suffragists worked as hard as Anthony and Stanton to achieve the right to vote.

Frances Ellen Harper said, "No race can afford to neglect the enlightenment of its mothers." Exclusionary practices were obvious and ubiquitous. Black women worked very hard to organize and have their own groups.

In 1896, the National Federation of Afro-American Women (NFAW) merged with the National League of Colored Women (NLCW) to form the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) with suffragist leader Mary Church Terrell as the first president. NACW maintained an organization called the "Equal Suffrage League." That was the rapid deployment vehicle for club mobilization and supporting the right to vote.

Anna Julia Cooper, who had a master's degree in mathematics, also gave a moving speech that resonates with many of today's black women scholars. The title was, "Only Black Women Can Say When and Where I Enter." Cooper also gave an impressive speech at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair in support of black women suffragists. In it she said, "I speak for the colored women

of the South because it is there that the millions of blacks in this country have watered the soil with blood and tears, and it is there too that the colored woman of America has made her characteristic history, and her destiny is evolving."

African American women had to contend with the sexism of being denied the right to vote, but also the racism of some white suffragists. They petitioned, they lobbied, they gave speeches, they organized, they mobilized and they marched in parades. As journalist Michelle Barnard said in The Washington Post of March 3, 2013, "Despite the tremendous risk, African American women marched for suffrage, too." Black female reformers and suffragists soldiered on.

In 1916, the suffragists used their formidable political power to campaign for the 19th amendment in various states. In that year, President Wilson sent a letter to Congress in support of the women's right to vote. Congresswoman Janet Rankin of Montana introduced the bill for women's suffrage. It passed in both Houses of Congress and was ratified in August of 1920 with the following statement: "The rights of the Citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

As we strive forward in this new century, women's rights should not be taken for granted. Women of new generations should be grateful, knowing that women in the past secured victories that made lives and circumstances much better for

members from Howard University joined the march with enthusiasm and a sense of mission. NACW maintained a separate suffrage office.

World War I had a major impact on the suffrage movement. A significant number of states in the West, Midwest and Northeast started to enact women's suffrage laws. Their efforts provided the political opportunity for a broader change.



Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida B. Wells and Lucy Stone (left to right, top to bottom) were prominent suffragist leaders.

American women of all generations. Countless others since – notably, the recently emerged #MeToo movement – have remained vigilant to protect and extend that progress.

Yet, glass ceilings still exist and pay equity has not been achieved. Domestic violence against women has not been stopped, and sexual harassment is still a major issue in our national dialogue. However, there are hopes and dreams. The suffragists were right about the power of the ballot. The 19th Amendment and women's rising political power have changed the world, and will continue to make a difference, so long as they are safeguarded and put to use.

mote the Vote" campaign with increased flexibility for all voters, it is imperative that those experiencing homelessness recognize their rights.

At least one information session will be held at the Delonis Center prior to the July 9 registration deadline for the primary elections in Michigan. Please help spread the word of the important right that has been afforded to all.

## Voting rights for all – including the homeless

by Elizabeth S. Kurtz, aka "Lit"  
Groundcover Vendor #159

Prior to 1984, an American experiencing homelessness could not exercise the right to vote.

During the 1980s when homelessness headlined as a crisis, court cases sprang up around the country that challenged denying a person the vote based on residency status.

In 1984, three precedent-setting cases were heard, each determining that the lack of conventional housing could not exclude an individual from voter registration.

The exact language in Pitts v. Black, the first challenged case in the state of New York, concluded that:

... states should use a broad interpretation of the term "residence" to include any place, including a

non-traditional dwelling, that an individual inhabits with the intent to remain for an indefinite period. It is now legal for citizens experiencing homelessness to vote in every state.

Michigan citizens who are experiencing homelessness, for example, are able to use the intersection of where they spend nights as an address.

Now that the Michigan League of Women Voters is pushing the "Pro-

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

### Art for heart's sake: ArtBreak at Delonis chalk drawing with David Zinn

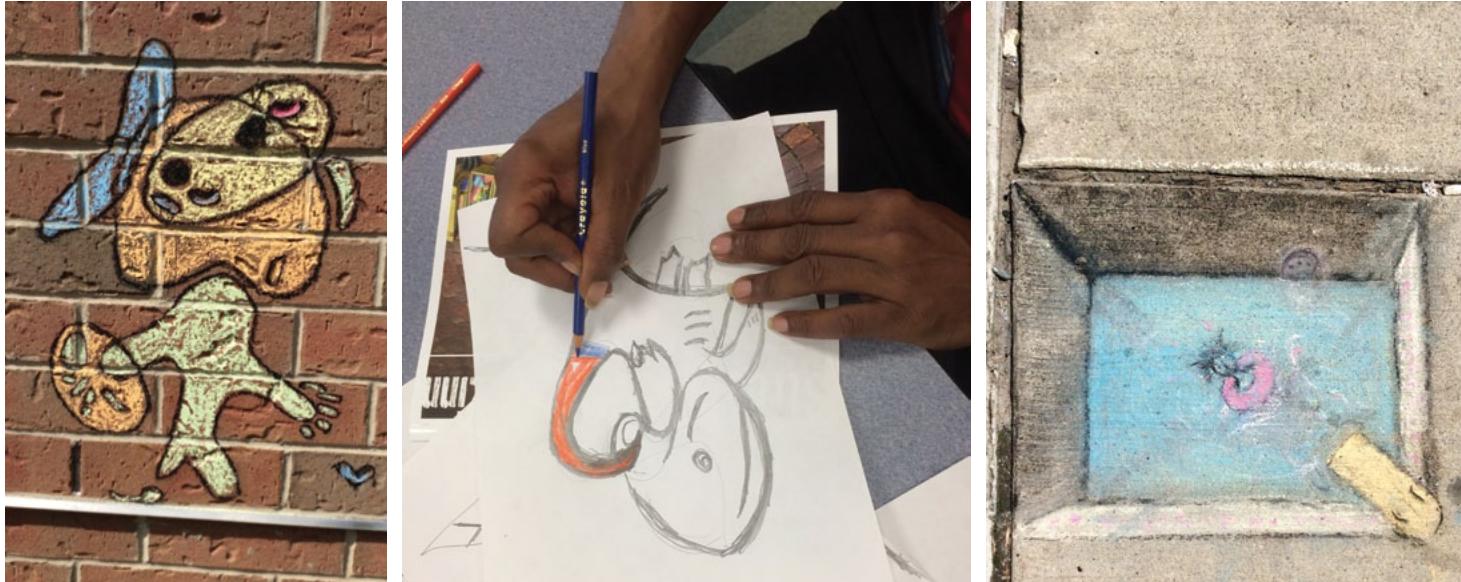
by Sue Budin and Genevieve Shapiro  
Groundcover Contributors

"Add lots of little critters," said one participant. Another said, "[If I could add to this picture], I would have him looking at something beyond because he's curious." These are two of many comments made by people engaging with art on May 16 at the ArtBreak Studio.

ArtBreak is a weekly drop-in art program serving people who are homeless, and those at risk of homelessness, at the Delonis Center – the overnight shelter located in Ann Arbor. Sessions are on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:30 from September through May.

David Zinn, well-known chalk artist whose whimsical characters grace the sidewalks and walls of Ann Arbor, led the May 16 ArtBreak session. Zinn began by telling stories of his own experiences with art from when he was a child. Art provided a refuge and a means of creative expression for a shy boy.

Zinn put participants at ease by giving an example of how to overcome obstacles – a lesson in art and also in life



ArtBreak participants turned squiggles on paper into fanciful creatures on paper (center) then translated their work to adorn an outside wall (left) and sidewalk area (right). Cover artwork was done by illustrator Genevieve Shapiro.

– explaining how he created an animal called a "dogtopus." "I can't draw dogs' knees. They come out all squiggly. So I had two choices. I could dedicate time and hard work to learning how to draw them correctly, or I could just draw a dogtopus."

Papers and colored pencils were handed out and then Zinn described a "Doodle Battle." This involved making a scribble/doodle and then passing it to the person on the left. Once this

was done, Zinn encouraged them to find something in the scribble – a face, animal or fantastical creature – by turning the paper. They got to work and produced some incredible images: an elephant-like creature, sailboats, an exotic cat and many more.

Zinn coached, "You need emotion. People react to faces. Want to add power to a drawing of a flower? Draw a face on the flower."

see ART, page 11

Then it was time to go outside. The group was given permission to draw with chalk on the sidewalk and building. They riffed on their drawn images or came up with something new. The place burst with color, animals, faces, birds and trees.

Some made use of nozzles and pipes attached to the building to make faces, taking Zinn's advice to see "obstruction

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## Faith in Action and Avalon bring affordable housing to Chelsea

by Susan Beckett

The first affordable housing project in Chelsea is complete. Sharon Ann Apartments were revealed to the public on June 14, 2018. A broad coalition of public, private and non-profit entities, along with many community members, contributed to the project and were there to celebrate its formal opening.

The 17 apartments include 11 one-bedroom units and 6 two-bedroom units, as well as an on-site laundry and community center. Some of the tenants are holdovers from the previous landlord but most are new. The three years of refurbishing were very taxing for those inhabiting the building at the time.

Avalon Housing is the property manager and supportive services are being provided by Doug Smith, a social worker with Faith in Action (FIA), the organization that runs food pantries in Dexter and Chelsea. It was FIA that initiated the project, having approached Avalon 10 years ago about the need for affordable housing in Chelsea, and identifying this property as a good fit. Smith met with the previous owner years ago and informed him of their interest in purchasing the building. Three years ago, the owner walked into FIA



Renter Tammy Diuble (right) shows her new apartment to community member Alex Rivera (left) and Avalon support person Arianne Clerkum (center).

and said, "I'm ready to sell and I want to sell to you."

Everyone scrambled into action. The Corporation for Supportive Housing provided a bridge loan that, coupled with money from FIA and community donations, comprised the pre-development funding. Then at the urging of city government, Chelsea State Bank

stepped in and financed the construction loan with the help of Low Income Housing Tax Credits. The Jackson Housing Commission provided the project-based housing vouchers, which limit tenants' rent to 30 percent of their income.

Even the owner of the neighboring Jiffy Mix plant, Howdy Holmes, helped out by quickly granting an easement to bring in water.

Reinhart realtor Dave Lutton, who, along with his wife Louise made a substantial donation to the project, commented that he knows first-hand how affordability is a worsening problem in the community.

"Folks living here [in Sharon Ann] were desperate to stay in this community and are thrilled to be living here," said Aubrey Patino, Executive Director of Avalon Housing.

This was echoed by Sharon Ann resident Karen Miller, who moved into the complex midway through the refurbishing project. She grew up in Manchester, moved to Colorado for many years, and then returned and settled in Chelsea, a community she found ideal for raising her daughter. Miller lost her job a couple of years ago and worried. Smith advised her to apply for a unit at Sharon Ann. Despite arriving early, she was the nineteenth applicant and hadn't expected to get one of the apartments.

"I love the Chelsea schools, teachers and community. I love seeing the Clock Tower and Jiffy Mix towers from my apartment. And everything is brand-new. It is such a relief to be here."

**Washtenaw County Office of Community & Economic Development (OCED)** has programs that can help eligible City of Ann Arbor residents facing utility shut-off.

### WAYS WE HELP:

- One time payments on your water bill.
- Personal action plan.
- Access to other free programs.

### FOR APPOINTMENTS, BRING:

- A Copy of Your Bill
- Applicant's Photo Identification (ID)
- Income Verification For ALL Household Members
- Proof of Residency

**To qualify for utility assistance, applicants must meet ALL program requirements.**

# ARE YOU WATER BILL? UNABLE TO PAY YOUR

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**To qualify for water utility assistance, applicants must:**

- Be a City of Ann Arbor resident
- Have their water currently shutoff **OR** in danger of shutoff due to being 1+ month behind
- Live at the billing **OR** service address
- Be at **OR** below 60% of Area Median Income

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3 - \$3313	7 - \$4563
4 - \$3679	8 - \$4858



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- For a list of Barrier Buster agencies **OR** if you are not working with a Barrier Buster agency, call OCED at 734.544.6748.
- For other questions email: L-bbstaff@listserver.ewashtenaw.org

## Sudoku ★★★★ 4puz.com



Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

### Before It All Vegan

By Victor Fleming and Tracy Bennett

#### ACROSS

- 1 Wild party
- 5 " \_\_\_\_\_ Navidad!"
- 10 Word best uttered with a melancholy sigh
- 14 Guthrie of folk
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_ acid
- 16 Soda synonym
- 17 Like some TV housewives, ironically
- 18 How grampa might've said "kewl!"
- 19 "Star \_\_\_\_\_ Beyond"
- 20 Drink that may improve a tot's eyesight?
- 23 Skeptical
- 24 "Howzit goin'?"
- 25 Escape confinement
- 28 Put on an unhappy face
- 30 Up-in-the-air notation, initially
- 33 Make a big scene?
- 34 \_\_\_\_\_ torch
- 35 Betrayed, with "out"
- 36 "Mr." or "Mrs." toy that spent too long in the sun?

39 \_\_\_\_\_-1 university (top school)

40 Actress (and UMich alum) Liu of "Elementary"

41 Like Vikings

42 Cunning

43 Precale, e.g.

44 Cast a sidelong glance

45 C major or D minor

46 Medicinal ointment

47 Spaghetti topping desired by all?

55 Simpson kid

56 Boneless entree

57 Granny or half hatch

58 Higher than

59 Certain 61-Acrosses

60 Life change?

61 See 59-Across

62 Terse summons

63 Thatcher, to Streep

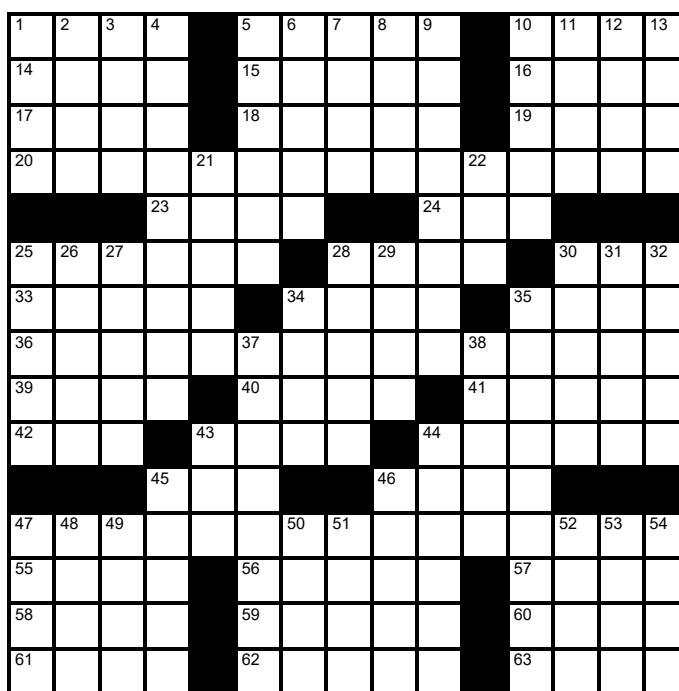
DOWN

1 Ill-fated "Stranger Things" girl

2 Carpet buyer's calculation

3 Bacon quantity

4 Baptism need



© Victor Fleming and Tracy Bennett (published via Adobe Acrobat DC)

- 5 Uncommissioned paintings of Lara Croft, e.g.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ board (nail file)
- 7 Dissembling sort
- 8 Fall \_\_\_\_\_ place (all work out)
- 9 Cab Calloway outfit style of the 1940s
- 10 Throw a tantrum
- 11 Actress Petty of "Tank Girl"
- 12 Actor Baldwin or Guinness
- 13 "Oh, for heaven's \_\_\_\_\_"
- 21 Minded
- 22 Project prominently
- 25 Student loans, e.g.
- 26 Teens won't read it
- 27 Hoosgow
- 28 " \_\_\_\_\_ Perfect 3" (Anna Kendrick film)
- 29 So-so
- 30 \_\_\_\_\_ is human
- 31 Jaded
- 32 Summed up?
- 34 Hype like a huckster
- 35 Cobbler
- 37 Championship games
- 38 They study torts at UMICH
- 43 "Have we \_\_\_\_\_ before?"
- 44 Reputed founder of Taoism
- 45 Maple Village big box store that closed in 2015
- 46 Non-varsity squad
- 47 Kerplunk kin
- 48 In the flesh
- 49 Takes unfair advantage of
- 50 One of the Indianapolis 500's 500
- 51 Downwind, on a ship
- 52 Reverse
- 53 Engine part
- 54 Luncheon ending



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## Anthony Bourdain understood “the other”



by Elizabeth S.  
Kurtz, aka “Lit”  
Groundcover  
Vendor #159

Losing my conventional housing following one of Detroit's massive teacher layoffs drastically changed the way that I viewed my world. In one fell swoop I slipped from middle class, teaching school and living in a comfortable apartment, to sleeping in my car and hunting down food and showers as one might search fast food restaurants for their favorite fare.

It was at that point that I began to brush up on my political awareness in a desperate search for answers that might change the circumstances which left me without conventional housing. Having joined a segment of what many call the Forgotten America, I did not have the luxury of being swayed by the media or public opinion or relying on others for choices.

The times spent barely surviving had taken their toll, and the barriers of color and the fragmented call for women's rights began to recede and were supplanted by a strong desire to be extricated from my circumstances. I decided to dig beneath what seemed like the surface-only rhetoric of liberals and the

perceived stingy pockets of Republicans to seek answers unique to my plight. Surprisingly, my search for answers led me away from the Democratic party and into President Trump's camp.

Though Anthony Bourdain fiercely denounced Trump, he had developed an intimacy with marginalized America which gave him a rare and treasured understanding of our need for change. As he traversed the country, he immersed himself into the depths of the lives of those on the periphery and developed a special bond with the many Americans who felt suppressed and left behind by past politics.

So while my candidate of choice seemed bizarre and counter-intuitive for a woman – a woman of African-American descent experiencing homelessness – Anthony Bourdain illuminated what others could not conceive. He understood the sense of urgency that had taken over many lives and the need for a hint of legislation which would save me and others like me from our plights.

When I became homeless, he continued to reveal that Americans like myself who have fallen onto the margins are more complex than the broad stroke with which society and the me-

## We Are America

by Jeffrey Taite, AKA Jeffrey Bronze Eagle  
Choctaw and Creek JBE

If I could only conduct my business by phone  
I wouldn't have trouble finding a home.  
If I could be interviewed ... sight unseen  
I'd probably be invited to join the team.  
Why do you darken your skin in the sun,  
Encounter my dark brother and turn and run?  
I arrive at the job swarthy and clean;  
You gaze upon me and your eyes turn mean.  
I do the same job for lesser pay  
“Keep up the good work,” is all you say.  
You call me country and white trash  
And treat me like I'm society's trash.  
I work the jobs that nobody wants  
I live in despair as the country rants.  
You accuse me of sending my money home  
But after paying taxes and bills  
There's not enough left for a movie of thrills.  
We are all trying to do our part  
But you continue not to give us a start.  
You clap your hands and ring the bell  
While rising prices make life a real hell.  
We are all America, legal or not  
If we stop spending to support a trend  
We will be forced to change the system  
To heal and truly mend.

## Crystal Ludwig, 1987-2018, will be missed



Crystal Morris, 1987-2018

The eldest of six children, Crystal is survived by her daughters La Teona, Ta Teona, Christeona and Glorieana, and her son Louis, her father and step-mother Lewis and Micki Ludwig, mother Dawn Mills, beloved grandmother Cathy Ludwig, aunt Hazel Ludwig, brothers Jesse and Jacob Mills and sisters Emma Mills and

Ashley and Tabitha Ludwig. Crystal, Vendor #147, sold Groundcover for a couple of years starting in 2013 and brought along Tabitha a couple years later. She was always there for Tabitha. She will be missed by them all, as well as by her many friends.

## Fresh raspberry salad dressing

by Elizabeth Bauman  
Groundcover Contributor

## Ingredients

1/3 cup fresh raspberries  
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 clove garlic chopped  
1/2 teaspoon white sugar

Directions

Press raspberries through a fine-mesh sieve using a spoon to remove seeds. Whisk raspberries, vinegar, garlic, sugar, sea salt and white pepper together

in a bowl. Slowly drizzle olive oil into raspberry mixture, whisking rapidly, until dressing is thick and creamy. Let sit until flavors develop, about 10 minutes.

*Delicious with a salad of spinach, red onion, tomatoes and toasted almonds.*



## ArtBreak with David Zinn

continued from page 6

as opportunity.” People were so involved that they didn’t want to stop at the official time.

This is but one example of art projects designed by artists who volunteer their time, and often materials, to ArtBreak, founded last year by Becki Spangler, a retired social worker who puts enormous energy into the program. Her flyer states: “Creative self-expression inspires joy, feels productive, and allows a positive outlet for what’s pent up inside – and it is good for the soul.” This was evident from the faces and conversations and laughter around the table and outside. Spangler said one participant told her that this activity “gets him through the week.”

Plans call for a mural commissioned by the Delonis Center whose theme is “Reaching Out,” consisting of 40 separate canvases done by residents and staff who were inspired by the theme. It will grace a wall of the reception area at the Center after Memorial Day. In July, an exhibit of the residents’ work will be shown at the old Ann Arbor Post Office building located at 220 N. Main, now an annex of the County Building, during the Art Fair. This will be a cool place to relax and see some amazing art.

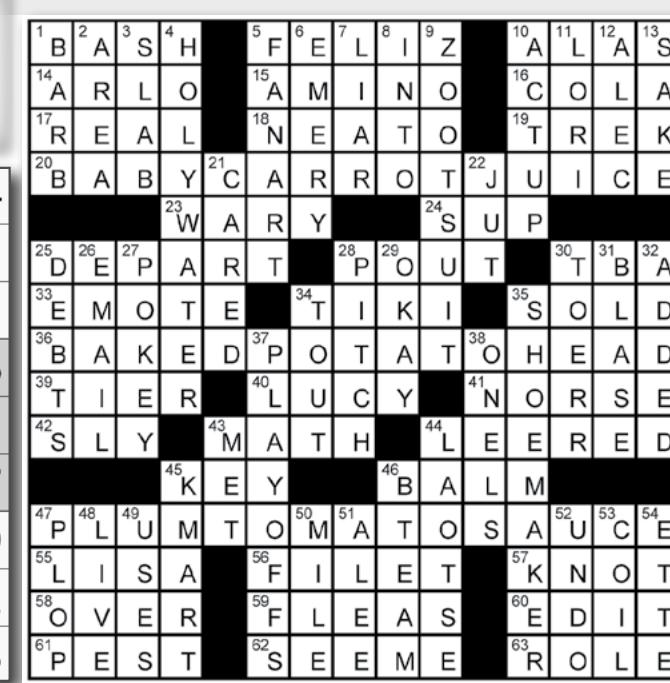
At first, Spangler said, people sat separately and didn’t engage with one another very much. There was sparse attendance. But now, everyone sits together at one large table, interacts easily and they often offer comments and support for each other’s work.

A good time is had by all, including volunteers – often retired art teachers. This creates a sense of community which is so important, Spangler says, in promoting trust and a feeling of safety among participants. An example was a concerted search by residents for some calligraphy materials lost by another resident in the program, something that might not have happened without the comradeship established around the table.

Art Break Studio is a community effort that depends on volunteers and donors. They are always looking for new people who would be fulfilled by getting to know and gently guide residents as they experience the joy of making art.

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